

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West



New Melones Lake – Photo Credit: Winetta Owens

New Melones Lake, located in Calaveras County, California, near the town of Sonora, has a capacity of 2.4 million acre-feet. The waters of the lake cover the original Melones Dam, which was built in 1926 by the Oakdale and South San Joaquin Irrigation Districts to provide water for agriculture. The lake's beautiful blue water and more than 100 miles of shoreline provide recreational opportunities to some 800,000 visitors annually.

The lake is open year-round and offers the public access to boat launch ramps; over 300 campsites; hiking, biking, jet skiing, canoeing, fishing (black crappie, bluegill, channel catfish, kokanee, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and rainbow trout) and picnicking. Visitors can rent houseboats and purchase fuel, bait, groceries and life jackets.

For more information on New Melones Lake, please visit:

<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/newmelones/>